

LIBRARY Marlborough and Ramsbury
Rural District Council

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR 1946

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my 27th Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Administration of your district.

This report is brief and is according to instructions received from the Ministry of Health in their circular 13/47 dated 13th March, 1947.

I have the honour to remain

Your obedient servant,

A. H. WILSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Victoria Road, Salisbury.

VITAL STATISTICS

Population—Census 1931 : 10,721

Population—Estimated Mid. 1946—9,570

Area : 94,511 Acres

Rateable Value : £49,828

Sum represented by Penny Rate : £195 : 0 : 0

Number of Inhabited Houses as shown by Rate Books end of
1946 : 3035

Births, 1946	Male	Female	Total
Live	82	86	168 (13 Illegitimate)
Still	2	—	2 (0 Illegitimate)

Birth Rate, 1946	England and Wales
Live	Live 19.1
Still	Still 0.53

Birth Rate	Average last 10 years 16.7
England and Wales	„ „ 10 „ 15.8

Deaths : Males 59	Females 55	Total 114
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Death Rate	11.9	Average last 10 years 12.1
England and Wales	11.5	„ „ 10 years 12.1

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age : Males 7
Females 2 Total 9

Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births)	53.5
England and Wales	43.0
Infantile Mortality Average last 10 years	54.9
England and Wales „ „ 10 years	50.0

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total death
Scarlet Fever	2	1	0
Diphtheria	3	3	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	0
Pneumonia	32 (4 Mil)	5 (4 Mil)	0
Erysipelas	3	0	0
Measles	2	0	0
Whooping Cough	29	0	0

Scarlet Fever. The district remained practically free from this disease during the whole year, the exception being one case on June 21st which was nursed at home and the second on July 5th which was removed to Salisbury Isolation Hospital from Saver-nake Hospital.

Diphtheria. Of the three cases of this disease the first was an imported case from Plymouth in a girl aged 21; the second was a very acute case in a woman aged 45 who was removed to Swin-don Hospital where unfortunately she died; the third case was in a girl of 18 who had been immunised in 1941—she was a very mild case and was treated in Salisbury Isolation Hospital.

Pneumonia. Thirty-two cases were notified, four being military and all except five during the first half of the year and most of them during the first three months. Only one civilian and four military cases were treated in Hospital. The three deaths given by the Registrar-General were of types which are not noti-fiable. None of those which were notified died.

Erysipelas. The three cases notified during the year were of a sporadic nature and call for no comment — none of them were treated in hospital.

Measles. Only two cases were notified during the whole year.

Whooping Cough. Although twenty-nine cases were notified during the year, the disease was never epidemic.

Puerperal Pyrexia. Two cases were notified: one was treated in Savernake Hospital and the other at home. Both recovered.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever. No case of this disease was notified to me for the district, neither is a death given by the Registrar-General but, in his return of inward transferable deaths a case of this disease was treated in Swindon Hospital in a patient whose home was in Broad Hinton.

Tuberculosis. Fifteen cases of all sorts including two non-civilian cases were notified during the year. Of these, one was a transfer from Middlesex, and three were notified on discharge from one of the services.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The comprehensive scheme for the collection of household refuse throughout the whole district has now been working for over twelve months. The work is carried out by two men and one refuse collection vehicle. Each parish receives a collection once in four weeks with the exception of the three most populated parishes which receive a fortnightly collection. The whole of the refuse is taken to one central tip and disposed of by controlled tipping. The whole scheme works well and the men are interested in their work. The receptacles used for containing refuse until collection are of numerous types and I would suggest that the provision of proper sanitary dustbins would be an asset.

The salvage of waste paper, rags and bones has continued, but the quantity obtained is still far from good. These articles are still vital raw materials and I trust the quantity kept by the householders for collection will increase.

MILK SUPPLIES

Routine inspections of Cowsheds and Dairies have continued and the general standard of cleanliness has been maintained. The shortage of labour has a bearing on this matter though every effort is made by both employer and employee to improve the cleanliness of the milk produced.

Of the 147 Registered Producers in the district 42 are licensed for the production of Accredited Milk and 42 for the production of Tuberculin Tested Milk. Samples of these products are taken regularly by the County Council to see that they comply with the requirements of the particular grade of milk.

LEGAL ACTION

No legal action was taken during the year.

HOUSING

6 Statutory Notices were served during the year.

Two houses were made fit for human habitation as a result of Statutory Notices and 39 as a result of informal action during the year.

During 1946 113 houses were inspected for the purpose of the Housing Survey. Two cottages were reported to the Council as not being capable of repair at a reasonable cost and Demolition Orders were made on these two cottages.

NEW HOUSING PROGRAMME

Of the Council's Housing Programme, 6 Swedish Timber House were completed and occupied at Shalbourne.

20 traditional type houses were in course of erection at the close of the year. Of these 20, four were at Lockeridge, twelve at West Overton and four at Grafton.

In addition, tenders were accepted and approved for three houses at Great Bedwyn.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE DISTRICT

	No. of Inspections 1	No. of Defects 2	Informal Notices 3	Statutory Notices 4	Remedied by 3 5	Remedied by 4 6	Remedied after verbal instructions only 7
Nuisances ...	268	81	55	10	46	6	16
Slaughter-houses ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Knackers' yards ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Places where food is prepared ...	37	4	1	—	1	—	3
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkstores ...	175	54	14	—	14	—	40
Butchers' shops ...	11	3	1	—	1	—	2
Tents, Vans, Sheds etc.	4	1	—	—	—	—	1
Bakehouses ...	35	9	2	—	2	—	7
	530	152	73	10	64	6	59
Housing ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	159
Infectious diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Factories ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Unclassified Visits and Inspections (Water Samples, Refuse Collection, Bye-laws etc) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	613
Total ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	790
Total number of all Visits and Inspections ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1320

MILK AND DAIRIES ETC.

Number of wholesale producers registered	...	...	147
Number of Retail Purveyors Registered	...	...	47
Approximate number of cows ...	...	...	5750

The details were :—

Male, Pulmonary	1 between 5 and 10 2 between 20 and 25 2 between 25 and 35 1 between 35 and 45 2 between 45 and 55
Female, Pulmonary	1 between 45 and 55 2 over 65
Male, Non-Pulmonary	1 between 0 and 5
Female, Non-Pulmonary	1 between 25 and 35

The two non-civilian cases are not included in the above.

Deaths. Male, Pulmonary	2 between 25 and 35,
Female, Pulmonary	1 between 20 and 25, 2 between 25 and 35 1 between 35 and 45 1 between 45 and 55

One female, pulmonary, aged 40 included in the above is an inward transferable death and had not previously been notified to me.

Immunisation against Diphtheria. During the year, 98 children under five, and 16 between five and fifteen, were immunised against diphtheria, and in addition, 29 received a reinforcement dose. This brings the total done in the district since the commencement of the Campaign in 1941 to 826 under five and 1640 between five and fifteen together with 29 reinforcements.

WATER SUPPLY

(1). There are at present three Piped Public Water Supplies in the district :—

- (a) Baydon (where the water is obtained from the Hungerford Rural District Council) ;
- (b) Aldbourne, Ramsbury and Chilton Foliat ; and
- (c) Great Bedwin and Chisbury.

The supplies in each of these three areas has been sufficient to meet all needs both in quantity and quality. The water is chlorinated at the Ramsbury and Baydon Works.

The water supplies to the other parishes in the district are private piped supplies to estates and farms and adjoining cottages, wells to individual properties, or wells shared by a number of houses. In parts of several parishes the quantity available, especially during the summer months, is very poor, and a number of wells are known to dry up entirely.

The Council has therefore drawn up schemes for the rest of the district and intends to supply pipe dwater to practically the whole of the area. This will necessitate enlargement of the works at Great Bedwyn, the provision of new works at Clatford and extension to the Swindon supplies.

(2). As the water supply in this area is practically all from chalk, there is no risk of any plumbo-solvent action.

(3). No action was taken during the year in respect of any water contamination.

(4) The following is a table showing what properties and population are supplied by the Public Water Supplies :—

PARISH	DIRECT TO HOUSES		BY MEANS OF STANPIPES	
	Houses	Population	Houses	Population
Baydon	60	184	—	—
Little Bedwyn	31	95	—	—
Great Bedwyn	166	506	—	—
Aldbourne	237	726	—	—
Chilton Foliat	35	107	—	—
Ramsbury	249	763	—	—
TOTAL	778	2381	—	—

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

There are no public sewerage schemes in the District other than the system of sullage water drainage installed by the Savernake Estate many years ago in the village of Great Bedwyn.

A Public Inquiry was held during the year regarding the proposed Ramsbury and Aldbourne Sewerage Scheme. After the Inquiry, the Ministry of Health notified the Council that consent was given for the Ramsbury Scheme but that the Aldbourne portion should be postponed for the time being. It was stated that the treatment and outfall works at Ramsbury should, however, be constructed so as to take the sewage from both villages. The matter is now in the hands of the Consulting Engineers who are in the process of making detailed drawings and specifications ready for sending out to tender.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

The gradual conversion of Privies into Earth Closets and Earth Closets into Water Closets continues. During the year, six Privies have been converted into Earth Closets and Ten Earth Closets into Water Closets. In all cases the conversion into Water Closets has taken place when cesspools have been constructed.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

All the slaughtering for the district is carried out in the Government Controlled Slaughterhouses situated in the Borough of Marlborough.

Number of Licensed Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	Nil
Notices received of regular slaughter	...	...	...	Nil
Notices received of casual slaughter	...	...	...	2
Number of condemnations, Meat	...	...	...	Nil
Number of condemnations, other foods in shops etc.	...	...	...	4

TOTAL CAUSES OF DEATH

Causes of Death	M.	F.	Causes of Death	M.	F.
All Causes	59	55	Appendicitis		
Typhoid and Paratyphoid			Other digest. diseases		2
Cerebro-spinal Fever			Nephritis	3	2
Scarlet Fever			Puerp. and postabort. sepsis		
Whooping Cough			Other maternal causes		
Diphtheria		1	Premature birth		1
Tuberc. of Respir. syst.	2	5	Cong. malf. birth. inj. Inf. dis.	5	
Other form of Tuberc.			Suicide	1	
Syphilitic Diseases	1		Road Traffic Act		
Influenza		1	Other violent causes	1	2
Measles			All other causes	5	5
Ac. Poliomyelitis and Enceph.			Deaths of Infants under 1 year—		
Ac. Inf. Enceph.		1	Total	7	2
Cancer of b. cav; and			Legitimate	5	2
oesoph (M.)	1		Illegitimate	2	
uterus (F.)			Live Births		
Cancer of stomach and			Total	82	86
duodenum		1	Legitimate	78	77
Cancer of breast			Illegitimate	4	9
Cancer of all other sites	4	4	Stillbirths		
Diabetes			Total	2	
Intra. cran. vasc. lesions	7	5	Legitimate	2	
Heart disease	15	16	Illegitimate		
Other dis. of circ. syst.	9	4	Population		9,570
Bronchitis	1	5			
Pneumonia	2	1			
Other Resp. diseases	1				
Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	1				
Diarrhoea under two years		1			

